

January 1984

Reviews, Critiques, and Annotations: Guides to Manuscript Collections in the Southeast: A Bibliography

W. Tony Coursey

Carter Presidential Materials Project

Robert D. Bohanan

Carter Presidential Materials Project

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/provenance>



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Coursey, W. Tony and Bohanan, Robert D., "Reviews, Critiques, and Annotations: Guides to Manuscript Collections in the Southeast: A Bibliography," *Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists* 2 no. 1 (1984) .

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/provenance/vol2/iss1/7>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

REVIEWS, CRITIQUES, AND ANNOTATIONS

Guides to Manuscript Collections in the Southeast: A Bibliography

W. Tony Coursey and Robert D. Bohanan

The seven state groupings listed below include all the published manuscript guides found to exist in the southeastern United States. Four months were spent contacting more than 700 institutions throughout the region, verifying holdings and locating published or printed guides. Of those institutions contacted, approximately 120, or one-sixth, claim to have manuscripts but have no guides available for distribution to researchers. Many have only in-house catalogs.

The kinds of institutions which most frequently have published guides are state, federal, public, and college libraries. Occasionally, historical societies, museums, and large businesses have printed inventories. There is little predictability for this generalization, even as far as quality. Sometimes a small historical society has more to offer than a college library.

The best aid for locating manuscript collections among various kinds of institutions throughout the Southeast is Howell (q.v.). Listing major holdings under corporate name and arranged as a directory, it is the first source to be checked for locating manuscripts in a particular area--especially those collections without guides. Other sources which cover several states are listed with Howell in a regional category below. For these and other guides, the most current pricing information is provided.

REGIONAL

Broderick, John C. "Manuscript Collections and Holdings." In A Bibliographical Guide to the Study of Southern Literature, edited by Louis D. Rubin, Jr., pp. 135-140. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1969.

Downs, Robert B. Resources of Southern Libraries. Boston: Gregg Press, 1972. 370 p.
Reprint of 1938 edition based on the activities of the ALA Committee on Resources of Southern Libraries. Section on manuscripts contains 32 pages and is out-of-date, but can be a useful introduction to major repositories and collections of older material.

English, Thomas H. Roads to Research: Distinguished Library Collections of the Southeast. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1968. 116 p.
Describes special collections among twenty university libraries from Virginia to Louisiana. Arrangement of contents and index is by subject, namely, Greek and Latin Manuscripts, Georgiana, Confederate Collections, etc. Indexed by subject.

Howell, J. B., ed. Special Collections in Libraries of the Southeast. Jackson, Miss.: Howick House, 1978. 423 p.

A special committee of the Southeastern Library Association made a comprehensive survey of all special collections in ten southeastern states. Chapter arrangement is by state and town, including libraries, businesses and various societies and associations, briefly describing major manuscript holdings and other research materials. Includes three indexes -- geographical, corporate name, and general (subject). What Moore (q.v.) is to South Carolina, Howell is to the Southeast. This guide should be consulted before any others.

ALABAMA

Fuller, Willie J. Blacks in Alabama, 1528-1865. Monticello, Ill.: Council of Planning Librarians, 1976. 30 p.

List of manuscripts, official documents, church records and other sources, primary and secondary, located throughout the state with indication of holding institution. Not indexed.

Mathis, Ray and Mathis, Mary. Introduction and Index to the John Horry Dent Farm Journals and Account Books, 1840-1892. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1977. 174 p.

The guide includes a biography of Dent and a description of his manuscripts and other documents. Indexed.

FLORIDA

A Guide to the Manuscripts and Special Collections of the John C. Pace Library, University of West Florida. Rev. ed. Pensacola: University of Florida, 1979. 86 p.

Supersedes 1972 guide (The First One Hundred). Descriptive entries arranged alphabetically by collection title, most of which relate to West Florida history. Accession numbers provided. Includes name-subject index.

Index to the Archives of Spanish West Florida, 1782-1810. Introduction by Stanley Clisby Arthur. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1975. 365 p.

Stetson Baptist Archives Index. Deland, Fla.: Florida Baptist Historical Society, 1955. 12 p.

Index to collections acquired through the Florida Baptist Historical Society and housed at Stetson University Library, relating to Baptist history in the state. Revision needed.

Tribble, Edward J. Catalog of the Florida State

Archives. Tallahassee: Division of Archives, History, and Records Management, 1975. 66 p.

Divided into three sections--public documents, manuscripts, and a subject-name index. Descriptions follow NUCMC format.

GEORGIA

Blanchard, Monica J., comp. Guide to the Charles Holmes Herty Papers. Atlanta: Special Collections Department, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, 1981. 127 p. \$3.00.

Detailed inventory of a major collection (153 boxes), with biographical note. Indexed by proper name and subject.

Cook, D. Louise. Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Atlanta Historical Society. Atlanta: Atlanta Historical Society, 1976. 160 p.

Thorough descriptions of the society's collections. Well indexed with headings for names, organizations, titles of collections, published works, newspapers, and subjects.

English, Thomas H. Special Collections, the Robert W. Woodruff Library for Advanced Studies, Emory University. Atlanta: Emory University, 1976. 27 p. Free.

Describes the contents of some major collections held by the library. Not indexed. Needs updating; see Windham.

Gamel, Faye, comp. Atlanta Images: A Guide to the Photograph Collections of the Atlanta Historical Society. Atlanta: Atlanta Historical Society, 1978. 32 p.

Alphabetical listing of cataloged photograph collections with descriptions. Indexed by name and subject. Out of print.

Guide to Manuscripts and Archives in the Negro Collection of Trevor Arnett Library, Atlanta

University. Atlanta: Atlanta University, 1971.
45 p.

A guide to twenty major collections at Atlanta University, the Countee Cullen Memorial Collection (approximately 4800 volumes) and such notables as Langston Hughes, Alex Haley, and Frederick Douglass. Provides a name-subject index.

Hawes, Lilla Mills, and Osvald Karen Elizabeth.
Checklist of Eighteenth-Century Manuscripts in the Georgia Historical Society. Savannah: Georgia Historical Society, 1976. 68 p.

Descriptions are arranged alphabetically by collection title with library accession number. Indexed by geographic and personal names.

Hoogerwerf, Frank W. "Confederate Sheet Music at the Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University." Notes 34, 1 (September 1977): 7-26.

An historical description of Confederate music with checklist of the approximately 200 items in the Special Collections Department. Arranged alphabetically. Not indexed.

John Hill Hewitt: Sources and Bibliography. Atlanta: Emory University, 1981.
42 p. \$5.00

Well-done guide to a major collection in the Special Collections Department, Woodruff Library. In addition to the inventory, it includes biographical note, "Materials in Other Repositories," and bibliographies. Not indexed.

Mendelson, Johanna, comp. Mary Letitia Ross Papers: A Descriptive Inventory. Atlanta: Georgia Department of Archives and History, 1979. 168 p.

Detailed item inventory of the papers of a Georgia historian, geographer, and naturalist whose primary research interest was the impact of Spanish culture upon the early history of Georgia. Indexed.

Roth, Darlene R., and Shadron, Virginia, comps.

Women's Records: A Preliminary Guide. Edited by C. Jeanne Thomas and Richard B. Bell. Atlanta: Georgia Department of Archives and History, 1978. 70 p.

Describes holdings in the Manuscripts Section, Georgia Department of Archives and History. Indexed by name, organization, and subject.

Spalding, Phinizy. The Book of Accessions: Georgia Depositories, 1973-80. Savannah: Georgia Historical Society, 1981. 110 p.

A collation, with some additions, of information printed in the Georgia Historical Quarterly and Georgia Archive about accessions in twenty Georgia institutions. Collections and descriptions are arranged alphabetically by institution name. Includes subject-name index.

Windham, Diane E. "A Guide to Manuscript Sources in the Special Collections Department for Atlanta, Georgia." Mimeographed. Atlanta: Special Collections Department, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, 1978. 41 p.

A guide to sources that relate to Atlanta. The Department also issues such subject guides for "Women's History," "Methodism," "China, Japan and Korea." All have descriptions arranged alphabetically, without index.

MISSISSIPPI

Henderson, Thomas W., and Tomlin, Ronald E., comps. Guide to Official Records in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1975. 115 p.

Arranged mostly by agency or office name within state government, with no detail on records or distinction of record type. Not an effective guide to manuscript holdings, though correspondence or other types of papers may be spotted occasionally in descriptions.

Rowland, Dunbar, ed. General Correspondence of Louisiana, 1678-1763. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1976. 177 p.

Originally published in 1907, as the Fifth Annual Report, Department of Archives and History, state of Mississippi. Includes information on manuscripts and other historical documents relating to the history of Mississippi. Indexed.

NORTH CAROLINA

Blosser, Susan Sokol, and Wilson, Clyde Norman, Jr. The Southern Historical Collection: A Guide to Manuscripts. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1970. 251 p.

Supersedes the 1941 guide. Describes the five million manuscripts in about 3900 groups. Indexed by title, name, place, and subject.

Cain, Barbara T; McGrew, Ellen Z.; and Morris, Charles E., eds. Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives. 3d ed. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1981. 706 p.

A revision of the 1942 and 1964 guides. Offers detailed descriptions of the archives' holdings. About one-fourth of the volume constitutes a name-subject index.

Cain, Robert J. Preliminary Guide to the British Records Collection. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1973. 53 p. \$1.00.

Finding aid with brief descriptions of the English records in the state archives, ca. 1585-1783. Not indexed.

Coker, C.F.W. Records Relating to Tennessee in the North Carolina State Archives. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1973.

Cumnock, Frances. Catalog of the Salem Congregation

Music. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980. 682 p.

Detailed, comprehensive guide to one of the largest and most important Moravian collections. Includes indexes.

Davis, Richard C., and Miller, Linda Angle, eds. Guide to the Catalogued Collections in the Manuscript Department of the William R. Perkins Library, Duke University. Santa Barbara: Clio Books, 1980. 1005 p. \$32.50

With more than 6000 group entries, the bulk of which relates to the nineteenth century South, this guide supersedes the 1947 Tilley-Goodman guide. One third of the volume comprises an extensive index which includes proper names, geographic locale, subject, and time period.

Gambosi, Marilyn. Catalog of the Johannes Herbst Collection. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1970. 255 p.

Detailed, thematic index-guide to a famous collection of Moravian musical manuscripts, all of which are available on microfiche.

Guide to Civil War Records in the North Carolina State Archives. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1966. 128 p.

Pertains to public documents and correspondence, not private collections which are included in the department's 1964 guide. Detailed descriptions of holdings are intended as a finding aid to the department's shelf arrangement. Indexed by subject and name.

Guide to the Manuscripts in the Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941. 204 p.

The results of the Historical Records survey in North Carolina, this guide is now superseded by Blosser and Wilson (q.v.).

Mitchell, Thornton W. Preliminary Guide to Records Relating to Blacks in the North Carolina state Archives. Raleigh: Department of Cultural Resources, 1980. 14 p.

North Carolina Historical Records Survey. Guide to the Manuscripts in the Archives of the Moravian church of America, Southern Province. Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Records Survey, 1942. 136 p.

Includes brief descriptions. Well indexed with cross-references and table of contents. Though dated, still useful.

_____. Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the Archives of the North Carolina Historical Commission. Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission, 1942. 216 p.

Useful in its time, now superseded by Cain et al. (q.v.).

Smith, Everard H., III. The Southern Historical Collection: Supplementary Guide to Manuscripts, 1970-1975. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Library, 1976. 60 p.

A supplement to Blosser and Wilson (q.v.).

Spindel, Donna. Introductory Guide to Indian-Related Records, to 1876, in the North Carolina State Archives. Raleigh: Department of Cultural Resources, 1977. 38 p.

Lists and describes state, county, and miscellaneous records, including private papers. Not indexed.

Steelman, Robert. Catalog of the Lititz Congregation Collection. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1981. 488 p.

Detailed, comprehensive guide to a Moravian manuscript collection. Includes indexes.

Thompson, Catherine E. A Selective Guide to Women-Related Records in the North Carolina State Archives. Raleigh: Department of Cultural Resources, 1977. 38 p.

Tilley, Nannie M., and Goodwin, Norma Lee. Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the Duke University Library. New York: AMS Press, 1970. 362 p.

Originally published in 1947, it was a fine guide in its day. Now superseded by Davis and Miller (q.v.).

SOUTH CAROLINA

Catalog of the Old Slave Mart Museum and Library, Charleston, South Carolina. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1978. 2 vols.

Photocopy of the in-house index to manuscripts, other documents, and books in one of the country's largest collections of black history.

Chandler, Marion C. Colonial and State Records in the South Carolina Archives. Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1973. 52 p.

Includes papers, correspondence, minutes, dockets, and journals of various state agencies and offices. Indexed by name and subject. Updated by Chandler and Wade (q.v.).

_____, and Wade, Earl W. The South Carolina Archives: A Temporary Summary Guide. 2d ed. Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1976. 161 p. \$1.25.

A growing collection, recent acquisitions are usually printed in the South Carolina Historical Magazine. A radical reformatting of this guide, with new material, is expected in 1985.

Chepesiuk, Ron. A Guide to the Manuscript and Oral History Collections in the Winthrop College

Archives and Special Collections. Rock Hill:
Dacus Library, 1978. 39 p.

Brief descriptions of 146 manuscript collections, many of which relate to women or to the Upper Piedmont region of the state. Arranged alphabetically with subject-name index.

. "The Winthrop College Archives and Special Collections: Selected Resources for the Study of Women's History." South Carolina Historical Magazine 82, 2 (April 1981): 143-172.

Begun in 1975, the collection is described through its acquisitions to 1980. Arranged alphabetically by title, without index.

Melnick, Ralph. "College of Charleston Special Collections: A Guide to Its Holdings." South Carolina Historical Magazine 82, 2 (April 1980): 131-153.

Brief descriptions of the holdings of the college are arranged alphabetically, without index.

Mottke-Hansen, David. "Charleston Library Society Microfiche Register." South Carolina Historical Magazine 83, 2 (April 1982): 175-201.

Descriptions of the society's manuscript holdings are arranged by accession number. Microform copies of most are available for purchase. Not indexed.

., and Doscher, Sallie. South Carolina Historical Society Manuscript Guide. Charleston: South Carolina Historical Society, 1979. 154 p.

Descriptions of the society's manuscript holdings are arranged by accession number. An excellent index based on Sears List of Subject Headings is included.

. "Recent Accessions to the Manuscript Division." South Carolina Historical Magazine .

- 81, 1 (January 1980): 79-81.
- 81, 2 (April 1980): 183-88.
- 81, 3 (July 1980): 275-81.
- 81, 4 (October 1980): 362-69.
- 82, 2 (April 1981): 186-93.
- 82, 3 (July 1981): 280-87.
- 82, 4 (October 1981): 382-87.
- 83, 1 (January 1982): 93-98.
- 83, 3 (July 1982): 253-56.
- 83, 4 (October 1982): 333-37.

Not alphabetically arranged nor indexed.

Moore, John Hammond. Research Materials in South Carolina: A Guide. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1967. 346 p.

Only brief mention of manuscript holdings, but does list the primary holdings of the University of South Carolina and the Carolina Historical Society. Index includes institutional names and subject entries. This is an excellent guide for locating manuscript collections within a particular area.

Stokes, Allen H., Jr. A Guide to the Manuscript Collection of the South Caroliniana Library. Columbia: South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1982. 493 p.

Issued as a supplement to the South Carolina Historical Magazine 83, 3. Includes a history of the collection, its scope, and finding aids. Over 2600 collections are listed by accession number and described. Well indexed, with personal and corporate name, geographic and subject references.

TENNESSEE

"Appalachian Folk Culture and Regional History: A Guide to audio and Video Recordings Available from the Archives of Appalachia." Archives of Appalachia Newsletter 3, special supplement (1 July 1981), 42 p.

Briefly describes the archives' audiovisual collection and the individual tapes found in each

collection. Indexed by speaker and performer, song title, and subject.

Harwell, Sarah J., ed. Guide to the Microfilm Holdings of the Manuscripts Section, Tennessee State Library and Archives. 3d ed. Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1983. 210 p.

This new edition supersedes the 1975 and 1978 editions. The microfilm holdings relate to state history, though copies may be of collections that are located outside the state, such as the Draper papers in the Wisconsin Historical Society. The guide is arranged by accession number and indexed by significant names and subjects.

Luttrell, Laura, and Rothrock, Mary U. Calvin Morgan McClung Historical Collection of Books, Pamphlets, Manuscripts, Pictures and Maps Relating to Early Western Travel and the History and Genealogy of Tennessee and Other Southern States. Knoxville: Knoxville Lithographing Company, 1921. 192 p.

Presented to the public library in Knoxville in 1921, the private library of Calvin Morgan McClung (1855-1919) focuses upon the southeastern United States and the area west of the Appalachians to the Mississippi River. Bibliographical entries are arranged alphabetically by author or by key word of the title. Not indexed.

McKay, Eleanor, ed. The West Tennessee Historical Society Guide to Archives and Collections. Memphis: Mississippi Valley Collection, 1979. 74 p.

Descriptive entries of the personal papers and records of the society held in the Memphis State University Library. Indexed.

Owsley, Harriet Chappell, ed. Guide to the Processed Manuscripts of the Tennessee Historical Society. Nashville: Tennessee State Library and

Archives, 1969. 70 p.

Intended as a finding aid for the repository, this describes the basic contents of 123 record groups. The forty-five page index "is primarily a proper name index with selected subjects listed."

Palmer, Pamela, ed. The Robert R. Church Family of Memphis: Guide to the Papers With Selected Facsimiles of Documents and Photographs. Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1979. 87 p.

Register to the Church Family Papers located in the Mississippi Valley Collection, Memphis State University Libraries. The Churches were a wealthy black family active in business and politics in West Tennessee, ca. 1870-1960. The majority of the collection spans the dates 1912-1952.

Posey, Linda Langdon. "A Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection." Master's thesis, University of Tennessee, 1974. 80 p.

Describes scope and content of twenty-five manuscript collections which relate to local and regional materials of historical and genealogical nature. Surname index, bibliography.

Special Collections in the Erastus Milo Cravath Memorial Library, Fisk University. Nashville: Fisk University, 1967. 16 p.

Major collections include George Gershwin, Langston Hughes, and Scott Joplin. Descriptions arranged alphabetically. Revised list (November 1983) available.

Tennessee State Library and Archives. Negative Microfilm Checklist. Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1967. 90 p.

Arrangement of descriptions by five sections: Library, Manuscripts, Newspapers, County Records, and Archives. Five separate indexes, apparently by name, but with no explanation as to use.

Tennessee Historical Records Survey. Guide to
Depositories of Manuscript Collections in
Tennessee. Nashville: Tennessee Historical
Records Survey, 1940. 27 p.

This booklet describes the major depositories in
the state with their size of holdings and major
collections. Indexed. Out-of-date.